the Centre for Science and Technology and the Research and Information System of Non-aligned and other developing countries. It also called for further assistance to Africa in the context of the Plan of Action of the Movement of Non-aligned countries to meet the critical economic situation of Africa, which was adopted at New Delhi in April, 1985. It expressed appreciation for the establishment of the Independent Commission of the South for development issues.

(d)' India is consulting and coordinating closely with other Non-aligned countries for the effective implementation of these decisions.

Evasion of excise duty by Kirloskar Group of Industries

1428. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kirloskar Group of Industries have recently been found involved in the evasion of Central excise duty to the extent of Rs. 5.43 crores; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Show Cause Notice dated 15-1-1986 has been issued to M/s. Kirloskar Brothers Limited, M|s. Kirloskar Proprietary limited and Directors Executives of the aforesaid companies. The adjudication proceedings are in progress. Simultaneously criminal proceedings have also been initiated against these two companies and Directors/Executives of both the companies before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Class I Pune.

12.00 NOON

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the election of the ..

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) Sir, will you notice that towards the end of the Question Hour, the booths are-being captured under the leadership of the Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean the seats have been captured and not the booths.

Let us take up the election of the Deputy Chairman. There are 12 motions for the election of the Deputy Chairmans Members who have given notice may now move one by one and in each case the motion is also to- be seconded by the seconder of that motion, Shri V. P. Singh.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. IACOB): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"Th at Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chaturanan Mishra—not here. It is not seconded. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion :

"That Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab) : Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurupada-swamy. He is absent Shri Virendra Verma.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से श्रीमती कनक मुखर्जी का नाम डिप्टी चेयरमैन पद के लिए प्रस्तावित करता हूं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Murasoli Maran. He is absent. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He is absent. Shri Dharam Chander Prashant. He is absent. Shri Rafique Alam.

SHRI RAFIQ ALAM (Bihar): Sir, beg to move the following Motion: "That Shrimati Pratibha ' Devisingh! Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR (Punjab) ; Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion;

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Shaba."

SHRI M. KADHARSHA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra) Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK (Haryana): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I second the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN; I shall put the first Motion moved by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and duly seconded by Shri M. M. Jacob to vote. The question is :

"That Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil as having been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The Leader of the Opposition will now ask her to take her seat.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; Now, I allow her to cross; the floor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee has the precedence to felicitate her.

FELICITATIONS TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, it is my proud privilege to congratulate first my colleague and dear sister, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, for her grand victory and for her election to the post of Deputy Chairman. Sir, apart from her personal qualities, she has worked as a Minister in her State for quite a long time. She has also been the Leader of the Opposition in her State. So, I have full confidence that she has experience and that she has efficiency. And, Sir, with the help of the Opposition and with the help of all the parties, left, right and centre .. . *(Interruptions')* most fittingly, I hope, she will uphold the prestige and honour of this esteemed Chair and she will also uphold the dignity and prestige of this august House.